

# N.J. Victims of Crime Compensation Board

*When it seems no one cares, we do!*

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol.2 Issue 1  
Winter 2002

## New Faces on the Board

The new year of 2002 brought with it new faces to the Board. We have welcomed Commissioner Richard Pompelio, Esq., of Sparta Commissioner Lois Johnson of Mt. Lakes and have bid a fond farewell to former Chairman James O'Brien and Commissioner William Hunt, Esq. We wish both of these friends and staunch advocates of crime victims all the best in their future endeavors.

Joining Chairman Jacob Toporek, Esq., of Edison and Commissioner Matthew Scannapico of Marlboro Twp., Commissioners Pompelio and Johnson bring with them fresh perspectives of victims needs and rights.

Commissioner Pompelio has been one of the premier victim advocates in New Jersey since the murder of his son, Anthony. He founded the NJ Crime Victims Law Center in Sparta, which represents victims and their interests, pro bono. Along with former Chairman O'Brien and other victim advocates in New Jersey, Commissioner Pompelio helped pass a State Constitutional Amendment to ensure fair and compassionate treatment for crime victims in the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Johnson comes to the VCCB from the Board of Pharmacy in the Division of Consumer Affairs. Her strong background in volunteer work in Morris County includes Family Services of Morris County and Hope House, a drug abuse program in Dover. She is also one of the original board members of the New Jersey Silent Witness Coalition, a program for domestic violence homicide victims.

By statute, the Board is made up of five commissioners who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate for a five year term. There are two citizen members and three attorney members, with no more than three from one political party.

The main office is at 50 Park Place in Newark, and there is an office in Trenton at 225 E. State Street.

**To arrange for in-service training about the VCCB, call Sharon Koch, Director of Policy & Planning, Outreach & Training at 973-648-7714.**

## *What's New?*

\* Staff members of the VCCB will continue to work at the New Jersey WTC Family Assistance Center at Liberty State Park in Jersey City until it closes. We have started paying WTC claims for funeral expenses not covered by NY Crime Victims Board, and for loss of support after NY has paid its maximum \$30,000.

\* Particularly of importance to Domestic Violence victims - the VCCB can pay for loss of support from the offender, thus taking away one of the most common reasons for DV victims not to leave and/or prosecute the offender.

\* This is the fourth issue of our newsletter; your opinions and questions are welcome. In future issues we will address any questions in a Q & A column.

*Feel free to reproduce  
any article in this newsletter.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **"How do I file a claim for compensation?"**

\*Claim applications are required by statute to be on display at all police stations in the state, and in all hospital emergency rooms.

\*Or you can call our toll-free number for an application to be mailed to you: **1-800-242-0804**

\*Complete the application and send it to the Board in the self addressed envelope provided. The more completely it is filled out, the less delay in processing. Always send copies, not originals, of medical bills, insurance statements, etc.

\*A police report must be filed within 90 days of the incident.

\*A claim should be filed within two years of the incident.

\*The VCCB is the payor of last resort - all expenses must be submitted to insurance, Welfare, or any other sources of reimbursement, first.

# Order Outreach Materials

\*Call 973-877-1492, 973-648-7714 or the main VCCB number 973-648-2107

OR

\*Fax your request with mailing information to 973-648-7031 or 973-648-3937

\_\_\_\_\_ Claim applications (25 in a packet) \_\_\_\_\_ Packets

\_\_\_\_\_ “Have You Been A Victim of a Crime?” blue brochure (50 in a bundle) \_\_\_\_\_ bundles

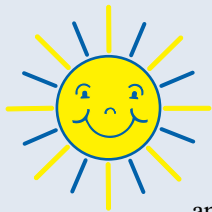
\_\_\_\_\_ Miranda Warning/Victims Rights plastic cards \_\_\_\_\_ cards

\_\_\_\_\_ Police tear-off pads \_\_\_\_\_ pads

\_\_\_\_\_ Display unit for applications and brochures \_\_\_\_\_ display boxes

\_\_\_\_\_ NEW - Colorful VCCB poster with boxes for blue brochures & applications \_\_\_\_\_ posters

**State of NJ**  
**Victims of Crime Compensation Board**  
**50 Park Place**  
**Newark, NJ 07102**



## Commissioner's Corner

By Jacob Toporek, Commissioner/Chairman

“Never Forget”. Those words were on the television screen as the nation commemorated the three month anniversary of the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001. The high profile nature of September 11 can easily overtake the time, energy and personal lives of the staff of those state compensation programs whose citizens were direct victims of terrorism. As with the VCCB, each one of the programs have aggressively attended to the needs of their resident victims and their families.

Our staff deserves praise for a job well done. Yet, a great burden has been placed on the program's ability to continue to efficiently and expeditiously process claims. The many non-terrorism related crime victims, whose lives have also been forever altered by their own personal tragedy, may experience delays in securing compensation for their out-of-pocket losses. In a sense, because of the various public, private and personal pressures exerted to address immediately the plight of September 11th's victims, everyday victims of crime, too, may become victims of September 11.

Prioritizing types of crime victims as to services to be rendered is not a good policy. It might be difficult, but a balance must be reached. The first step, and the equitable principle which guides the VCCB, is that the words “Never Forget” should be applied to all who have been victimized.